

WEEKLY VIEWS

BE INFORMED ABOUT THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

"Relapse and Prevention for Reentry" kicked off last week at South Bend Community Re-entry. The program, an aftercare component for offenders who have completed standard substance abuse or therapeutic community programming, was developed in collaboration with the Drug Free Community Council who obtained a grant to develop the program.

Congratulations to Carolyn Spegal from Pendleton Correctional Facility who is retiring after 21 ½ years of state service.

Chief of Staff Dan Ronay welcomed staff to the first session of the 2010 Experienced Emerging Leaders cohort at Brown County State Park.

Offenders submitted 45 drawings, essays, and poems for the Black History Month Art/Written Word Contest at the Putnamville Correctional Facility. Winners will be presented with certificates and have their submissions displayed during the next Community Advisory Board meeting.

The Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund (ICPOF) will be hosting a golf outing on Friday, May 14th. The net proceeds will be donated to the ICPOF. For any questions or if you are interested in participating please contact Jim Kimmel jkimmel@idoc.in.gov 219.785.2511 ext. 4081.

Staff and offenders at Henryville and Plainfield Correctional Facilities participated in activities to celebrate Black History Month. Both facilities hosted a public speaker; national motivational speaker Walter D. Smith spoke at Henryville and both Anthony Simpson, Assistant Coach for the Marion University football team, and Rev. Leon Graves Sr. at Plainfield.

Oakland City University hosted its bi-annual Dean's List Luncheon at Branchville with a meal prepared by The Culinary Arts Department. Approximately 60 offenders made the Dean's List, which requires a 3.5 grade point average.

Volunteers from the Lowell Church of God performed for students at Camp Summit. Approximately 85 students were able to enjoy "The Choice of Love," a play that illustrated decisions people make between Good and Evil and the consequences that follow.

Wabash Valley staff donated over 253 pounds of food items to God's Pantry in Oaktown, IN on behalf of the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive. The WVCF Inside Out Dad's program contributed \$800 dollars to the worthy cause.

Westville's PLUS and PLUS 2 units sponsored an Arby's food sale for offenders in the programs. \$700 in proceeds will be going to the Haiti Relief Fund.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility's "Shifting Gears" program donated 10 re-conditioned bicycles to the Hoosier Veteran Assistance Foundation. An additional 10 bikes were also donated to the Johnson County Community Corrections Center.

Miami Correctional Facility had staff and family members participate in two Polar Bear Plunges to benefit the Special Olympics. Tim W. Brown, MCF Fire Chief, raised \$670 and 9 staff and family members raised an additional \$1,152.

Residents at IREF hosted a Black History Month Program in which they highlighted prominent African Americans and paid tribute to the African American experience through spoken word and song.

Indiana State Prison offender organizations, the Jaycee's and Organic Gardeners, and Offender Recreation Fund donated \$3,562.50 to purchase twenty-five Loaner TV's for offenders who cannot afford one.

As part of Facility Forward, PEN Products moved to its new home on the grounds of IREF at 2010 East New York Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201. The new phone number is 317-955-6800 and the toll free number remains 800-736-2550.

Pendleton Juvenile's Boy Scout Troop #1888 received the Centennial Quality Unit Award from the Boy Scout Crossroads of America Council. The award recognizes troops which achieve excellence in providing a quality program to youth.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held its 8th Family Worship service. 40 family members of 20 offenders gathered for an interfaith worship service. Presentations were made by members of the Wiccan, Buddhist, Islamic, and Christian communities.

Miami Correctional Facility held its quarterly Recall meeting. Discussions were geared around the upcoming ACA Audit and support of the correctional appreciation staff, American Cancer Society and Special Olympics.

The Reception-Diagnostic Center raised \$464.73 from a spaghetti sale for the upcoming Correctional Employees' Appreciation Week.

IREF's Employee Appreciation Committee held the first annual Chili Cook-Off. Of the many staff participants, Culinary Arts Instructor, Dennis Brady's chili was voted the best. Money raised will benefit the Employee Appreciation Fund.

"The roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become." ~ Harold Taylor